

DRAFT

Rockville Environment Commission Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, May 8, 2012 Held at the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue

Attendance

Commissioners Present: John Becker, Julie Palakovich Carr, Kris Dighe (by phone), Alicia Hosmer, Beri Kravitz and Clark Reed

Commissioners Absent: Steve Cardon and Devinie Lye

Guests: Mark Charles, Environmental Management
Melissa Michel – Interested Non-Resident (Beltsville)

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:40 pm by Acting Chair Kravitz.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Approval of the April 10, 2012 meeting minutes was moved by Dighe and seconded by Palakovich Carr with no corrections. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Commissioner Vacancy

Commissioner Candidate Ming Hu was out of the County and unable to attend the meeting. She will be rescheduled for next (June) month's meeting. Additional residents interested in serving on the Commission should file an expression of interest form with the City Clerk's office.

Multi-City Meeting in Hyattsville

This semi-annual meeting was held on April 24, 2012 and attended by Commissioners Becker, Palakovich Carr and Lye. Approximately 12 other Maryland communities were represented. The session included discussions of chickens kept in residential homes; progress on achieving Certified Sustainable Maryland status; and getting to "zero waste" (often defined as a 90% reuse and recycle goal). Commissioner Lye has a contact working on this initiative whom she may invite to a future Commission meeting to discuss the program further. Finally, several of the communities have successfully screened the film "*Bag It*."

The next meeting of the group is tentatively scheduled for October 18, 2012 in College Park. The Commission expressed an interest in offering to host the following meeting in the spring of 2013.

Environmental Excellence Awards

Award Ceremony Postponed

The Awards Ceremony, originally scheduled for April 30 is postponed until **Monday, May 14**. All Commissioners are invited to attend.

Montgomery College Science Center

The College has not yet updated its award nomination from April 2010. Consideration is still pending. There are no other nominations at present.

Award Criteria

Commissioner Becker presented his preliminary findings from researching other municipal award programs. He suggested that all nominees be in “good standing” (i.e., current on all tax and fee liabilities); that they not be in violation of applicable environmental laws; that they not be in any major disputes with the City; and that their efforts provide a clear environmental benefit to the City.

Commissioner Becker also outlined the process the nominations should undergo. A more detailed discussion, including award categories is expected at the May meeting.

Hometown Holidays Preparations

Booth Staffing

- Commissioner Becker is available all day on Saturday, May 26.
- Commissioners Cardon, Palakovich Carr and Reed will assist in setting up the booth (12:30-2:45).
- Commissioners Kravitz, Dighe, and Lye are available to take the booth down (2:45-5:00).
- Commissioners should bring all outreach materials that they are currently storing to the Environmental Management offices by Friday, May 25, 2012.
- Commissioner Becker has also arranged for a solar array to power the rainbarrel demo.
- The booth is located near the library so Commissioners can encourage the public to attend the YERT film (see below).

“Your Environmental Road Trip (YERT) Film Event

- A VIP screening will be held on Friday, May 25 in the Mayor and Council Chambers.
- Electronic Email E-vites have gone out to invitees.
- Commissioners Dighe, Reed and Hosmer will come early to set the room.
- Commissioner Reed is arranging for food and music (*Gypsy Meltdown*) before the event.
- If available, name tags will be used for guests.
- Chair Dighe will introduce the film and its producer/director/star Mark Dixon.
- There will be two public screenings on Saturday during *Hometown Holidays*.
- Promotional posters have been put up across town.
- *Rockville Reports* included an article on the film.
- The Rockville website also includes information about the film.
- The City has received 15 additional copies of the film on disk. Several can be given to the library and the Croydon Creek Nature Center.

Stream Clean-up

Commissioner Palakovich Carr described the stream clean up event at Maryvale Creek on Saturday, April 14. Fourteen volunteers collected 18 bags of trash as well as a discarded mattress.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm by unanimous acclamation.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for **Tuesday, June 12, 2012 at 7:30 pm** in the **Diamondback Conference Room** of the **Rockville City Hall**, **111 Maryland Avenue**, Rockville, Maryland, 20850. The public is invited to attend.